

Date

Steve Halbert, Assistant Chairman
Rapides Parish Fire District No. 12
P.O. Box 323
Cheneyville, Louisiana 71325

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2016-515

Dear Mr. Halbert:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its August 19, 2016 Board meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether Lee Stanley may be compensated on a part-time basis as Chief of Rapides Parish Fire District No. 12 (Fire District). Mr. Stanley has been the Chief of the Fire District since January of 2000 after being elected by the members within the Fire District and being appointed by the Fire District Board. His son, Zach Stanley, is also a volunteer firefighter for the Fire District.

You stated that the Fire District is completely volunteer. You also stated that the reason for wanting to compensate the chief on a part-time basis is due to the time consuming nature of keeping all the equipment in its best condition and staying current with the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana requirements. The duties of the Chief are to keep all equipment inspected and serviced as required, all trucks operational and serviced as needed, hire the people to perform the serving work, and being a liaison between the firemen and the Fire District Board.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Lee Stanley from entering into a contract to be compensated on a part-time basis with the Fire District. La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a) of the Code prohibits a public servant, a public servant's immediate family, or a legal entity in which he has a controlling interest from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant. While Lee Stanley and his son, Zach Stanley, serve as volunteer firefighters for Rapides Parish Fire District No. 12, the appointment and hiring of a part-time fire chief is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the Rapides Parish Fire District No. 12 Board.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Brett Robinson
For the Board